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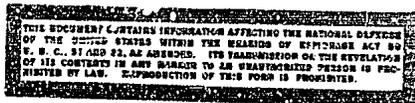
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PUBLIC HEALTH IN ALBANIA

In the following article, Dr Medar Shtylla, Minister of Public Health in Albania, deplures present sanitary conditions in industrial centers and villages. He urges all party and industrial organizations to aid the state sanitary organizations and the Red Cross in improving conditions and in educating the masses and workers to take care of their own health. Previous Tirana press reports pointed out similar complaints on the poor hygienic conditions in Albanian factories and other establishments. Dr Shtylla's comments follow.

Every spring, the government designates one week to be observed by law as Cleanliness Week. Its main purpose is to educate the workers and masses and train them in hygienic methods. This year, the week beginning 14 April was fixed as Cleanliness Week.

Protecting the health of the people is a serious problem to which the government urges attention on the part of all enterprises, schools, and other organizations. Too often, managers of enterprises are so preoccupied with fulfilling state plans that they neglect problems of hygiene among their workers. In many consumer cooperatives, for example sanitary conditions have been so poor that the state sanitary inspectors have had to impose fines. Likewise, in construction enterprises and building yards, little provision is made for cleanliness among the workers.

Public health organizations must cooperate with the Red Cross and seek the aid of the Albanian Women's League and the League of Albanian Working Youth. Communal economic sectors also must join with the rreth executive committees of the people's assemblies, and the State Sanitary Inspectorate to introduce more effective health regulations in cities and villages. Wherever violations of sanitary regulations are discovered, the State Inspectorate has not only the right but the duty to take the necessary measures by imposing fines or by closing the establishment at fault.

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The food industry in particular, must exercise rigorous control over the standards set for products and see that the sanitary regulations are observed.

The executive committees of the Communist Party and the Public Health branches should assist the State Sanitary Inspectorate in the enforcement of sanitary regulations and in educating workers.

Each Cleanliness Week in past years has produced lasting results, especially in certain areas such as Korce, Peshkopi, Gjinckaster, and Shkoder. During the present Cleanliness Week, a series of improvements is expected. Houses will be whitewashed and their surroundings cleared. Animals will be removed from people's houses, holes for manure will be dug farther from the houses, canal beds will be cleaned, holes and puddles will be filled up, workshops will also be whitewashed and unsanitary conditions eliminated, the breeding places of flies and mosquitoes will be eliminated, and clean, wooden beds will be put up in villages and elsewhere. All these activities will cost but little in money and time, yet they will mean a great improvement in public health, as well as in the education of the masses.

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